

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652 : N/A
TAGS : BENC, ECRE, ENRG, EMIN
SUBJECT : MAJOR PROJECTS

1. GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED SEVERAL DECISIONS RELATING TO MAJOR PROJECTS FOR POINT LISAS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, THROUGH MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND MINES AND MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE ERROL MAHABIR DURING SITTING OF PARLIAMENT JULY 28.

A. AN ADDITIONAL DIRECT REDUCTION PLANT WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE STEEL MILL COMPLEX, TO PRODUCE 450,000 TONS OF SPONGE IRON. MAHABIR STATED THIS WOULD GIVE PLANT CAPACITY TO PRODUCE 700,000 TONS OF WIRE ROD PLUS 200,000 TONS OF SPONGE IRON. HE SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MARKETING OF THE OUTPUT ARE "SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED TO ASSURE THE COMPANY THAT IT WOULD BE ABLE TO MARKET ITS TOTAL OUTPUT." MAHABIR ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT "CERTAIN NEGOTIATIONS" ARE BEING CONDUCTED FOR HIGH VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS AND A MANUFACTURING FACILITY WHICH WILL CREATE ADDITIONAL JOBS.

B. MAHABIR ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF U.S.-BASED KING WILKINSON AS ENGINEERING CONSULTANT FOR PHASE ONE OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LNG PROJECT. MAHABIR ALSO REVEALED THAT THE AUTHORITY FOR THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF THE LNG PROJECT HAD BEEN DELEGATED, WITH THE PIPELINE AND DELIVERY OF GAS TO BE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOTT, THE LNG PLANT AND SHIPPING TO BE THE JOINT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOTT AND FOREIGN PARTNERS, AND THE REGASSIFICATION AND TERMINAL FACILITIES IN THE U.S. TO BE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE U.S.

PARTNERS.

C. MAHABIR REPORTED THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE PROCEEDING WITH INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS ON THE ALUMINUM SMELTER, WHICH WILL HAVE A CAPACITY OF 135,000 TO 180,000 METRIC TONS PER YEAR. IT IS HOPED THAT A DECISION CAN BE TAKEN BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. MAHABIR NOTED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE SMELTER WILL BE CRITICALLY DEPENDENT ON THE COST OF ELECTRICAL POWER TO THE COMPLEX, AND STUDIES OF THE ECONOMICS OF THE PROJECT INCLUDING THE POWER PLANT ARE NOW BEING DONE.

D. MAHABIR ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT AN ADDITIONAL 86 MEGAWATT POWER PLANT WILL BE INSTALLED AT POINT LISAS BY WESTINGHOUSE. THIS WILL BRING THE TOTAL ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION TO FIVE SUCH UNITS; THE FIRST, ALSO INSTALLED BY WESTINGHOUSE, IS NOW IN OPERATION. A CONTRACT WAS SIGNED ON JULY 21 WITH BROWN BOVERI FOR THREE UNITS, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL BE MANUFACTURED BY BROWN BOVERI'S U.S. SUBSIDIARY. O'MAHONY

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